

Workforce Observations

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, & Vernon

January 2004

Unemployment rates climb as temperature drops

The increase in the unadjusted unemployment rate for **Western Wisconsin** in December did not surprise area observers. The unadjusted unemployment rate rose from four percent in November to 4.7 percent in December. The increase of 0.7 percentage points is fairly typical for the season. The latest bump did not push the current rate over the 5.1 percent unemployment rate of one year ago.

December's statewide unadjusted rate increased to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent in November. Nationally, the unadjusted unemployment falo County had a higher rate than one year ago. The counties in **Western Wisconsin** followed a pattern statewide where unemployment rates increased from November in all but five counties. Unemployment rates in the state's 72 counties were higher than one year ago in only four counties, including Buffalo where the unemployment rate increased to 5.3 percent in December from 4.9 percent one year ago.

La Crosse County's reading of 3.6 percent was the fourth lowest Wisconsin county rate this December.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	La Crosse *	Wisconsin	United States		
	MSA	(000s)	(000s)		
Current month: Decembe	r 2003				
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	3,093.7	146,878		
Employment	73,600	2,934.3	138,479		
Unemployment	3,300	159.3	8,398		
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.2%	5.7%		
Change from one month	ago				
Civilian Labor Force	800	4.6	(309)		
Employment	500	-1.1	(54)		
Unemployment	300	5.5	(255)		
Unemployment rate	0.3%	0.2%	-0.2%		
Change from one year ag	<u>o</u>				
Civilian Labor Force	2,600	65.8	1,721		
Employment	2,600	79.8	2,020		
Unemployment	100	-14.1	(300)		
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.3%		

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

rate dropped in December to 5.4 percent from 5.6 percent in November. Both Wisconsin and the Western area are more severely impacted by changes in weather and seasonal swings in manufacturing employment than the nation as a whole.

The unemployment rate rose in each of the eight counties in the region in December but only Buf-

Seven of the eight counties in the region reported a loss of jobs in December. Overall, there was a loss of 700 jobs in the area in December. Most of the reductions occurred as construction employers cut back for the winter months. Job reductions in construction totaled 500 in December.

Compared with twelve months ago,

there are 2,500 more jobs in the region. Seven out of eight counties posted gains in jobs as compared to last December, with only Buffalo Country reporting a job loss. Leading the increasing industries were trade, health services, and the 'all-other' service industry

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the La Crosse Metropolitan Area was 0.3 percentage 4.2 percent, points higher as compared to November's revised reading of 3.9 percent. This year's December rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 4.4 percent recorded in December 2002. The December 2003 La Crosse Metropolitan Area seasonal unemployment rate ranked 40th lowest out of the nation's 331 metropolitan statistical areas.

The La Crosse Metropolitan Area joins the ten other metropolitan areas in Wisconsin reporting increases in their seasonally adjusted employment rates. All 11 Wisconsin metropolitan areas had higher seasonally adjusted rates in December 2003 than they had experienced last month. However, all 11 metropolitan areas had lover seasonal rates than recorded in December 2002.

Seasonally adjusted, the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate in December was 5.2 percent while the national rate was 5.7 percent.

^{*} La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

Control Cont	Employed	93,580 88,570 5,010 5,4% 71,400 55,000 17,000 54,500 2,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -2,00 -1,000 800 0,9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	3,068,560 2,922,590 145,970 4,8% 2,785,800 2,368,000 623,900 2,161,900 115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Employed 7,400	Employed 7,400 10,450 11,230 8,870 62,080 20,220 15,540 13,850 150,640 Unemployment Rate 420 510 540 870 2,340 990 950 750 7,350 Unemployment Rate 5,3% 4.6% 4.6% 4.6% 8.1% 36% 4.7% 5.7% 5.7% 5.1% 4.7% 70tal Nonfarm (NFWS)*** 5,000 8,400 8,300 9,000 69,800 18,300 13,800 14,000 14,000 150,100 10,100	88,570 5,010 5,4% 71,400 55,000 17,000 54,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -2,00 -1,000 800 0,9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	2,922,590 145,970 4.8% 2,785,800 2,368,000 623,900 2,161,900 115,600 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -9,000
Demployed 420 510 640 870 2,340 990 950 750 7,350 7,350 7,360 14,76	Unemployed 420 510 540 870 2,340 990 950 750 7,350 7,350 1,050	5,010 5.4% 71,400 55,000 17,000 54,500 2,500 14,500 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	145,970 4.8% 2,785,800 2,368,000 623,900 2,161,900 115,600 327,600 327,600 327,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -8,800 -9,000
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Total Nonfarm (NFWS)*** 5,000 8,400 8,300 9,000 18,300 13,800 13,800 141,200 714,00 278,00	Total Private	71,400 55,000 17,000 54,500 2,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -1,000 800 -5,00 -0.7% -500 -400	2,785,800 2,368,000 623,900 2,161,900 115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0,3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Total Private	Total Private	55,000 17,000 54,500 2,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	2,368,000 623,900 2,161,900 115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0,3 -9,800 -0,4% -8,800 -9,000
Service Producing	Goods Producing	17,000 54,500 2,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	623,900 2,161,900 115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0,30,300 -9,800 -9,800 -9,000
Service Producing 4.500 6,800 6,800 6,800 8,300 14,300 8,000 7,400 112,700 54,500 2,161,18	Service Producing	54,500 2,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 11,980 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	2,161,900 115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rarcs	Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs 160 250 730 270 2,500 560 260 220 5,000	2,500 14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 2,930 1,500 11,980 -2,00 -1,000 800 0.9 9-500 -0.7% -500 -400	115,600 508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Transportation	Manufacturing	14,500 11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	508,300 446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Transportation & Utilities	Trade 500 2,600 900 1,200 12,400 2,900 1,600 1,700 23,800 Transportation & Utilities 1,800 200 800 400 2,100 1,800 600 300 7,900 Financial Activities 160 200 240 250 3,600 610 350 380 5,800 Education and Health Services 600 1,100 600 1,200 13,000 1,700 1,100 1,500 20,800 Leisure & Hospitality 400 900 900 600 1,000 1,400 1,000 600 300 500 1,100 1,000 600 300 500 1,100 1,400 1,000 600 2,000 4,000 1,000 600 2,000 4,000 2,460 2,220 26,000 7,000 7,000 7,000 7,000 7,000 7,000 7,000 2,200 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 2,000 3,000	11,400 5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	446,500 327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Transportation & Utilities	Transportation & Utilities	5,800 2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	327,600 159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Education and Health Services 600 1,100 600 1,200 1,300 1,700 1,100 1,500 2,800 2,200 1,502	Financial Activities	2,200 7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	159,200 371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Education and Health Services 600 1,100 600 1,200 1,300 1,700 1,100 1,500 20,800 7,800 371.5	Education and Health Services 600 1,100 600 1,200 13,000 1,700 1,100 1,500 20,800	7,800 6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	371,500 232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Lissure & Hospitality	Leisure & Hospitality	6,100 4,700 16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	232,200 430,000 417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
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Total Government	Total Government	16,400 2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	417,800 29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Federal 150	Federal	2,930 1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	29,100 100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
State	State	1,500 11,980 -200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	100,300 288,400 -4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Local 740 910 2,560 1,390 6,660 1,990 2,310 2,090 18,640 11,980 288,4	Local	-200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	-4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Civilian Labor Force**	Change from one month ago November 2003 Civilian Labor Force** 50 -10 -160 -20 100 -260 180 10 -100 Employed -50 -80 -280 -110 -100 -260 -120 -110 -1,100 Unemployed 110 70 120 90 300 10 300 120 1,100 Unemployment rate(%) 1.3 0.6 1.1 0.9 0.4 0.1 1.7 0.8 0.7 Total Nonfarm (NFWS)**** -70 -20 -170 -60 -200 -170 -30 0 -700 Percent change NFWS from last moni -1.4% -0.2% -2.0% -0.7% -0.2% -0.9% -0.2% 0.0% 0 Total Private -50 -30 -200 0 100 100 -0 0 -0.2% -0.9% -0.2% 0.0% 0 -0.2% -0.9% -0.2% 0.0% 0 -0.9%	-200 -1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500	-4,100 -12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Civilian Labor Force** 50 -10 -160 -20 100 -260 180 10 -100 -200 -4.1	Civillan Labor Force** 50 -10 -160 -20 100 -260 180 10 -100 Employed -50 -80 -280 -110 -100 -260 -120 -110 -1,100 Unemployed 110 70 120 90 300 10 300 120 1,100 Unemployment rate(%) 1.3 0.6 1.1 0.9 0.4 0.1 1.7 0.8 0.7 Total Nonfarm (NFWS)**** -70 -20 -170 -60 -200 -170 -30 0 -700 Percent change NFWS from last moni -1.4% -0.2% -2.0% -0.7% -0.2% -0.9% -0.2% 0.0 -700 Percent change NFWS from last moni -1.4% -0.2% -2.0% -0.7% -0.2% -0.9% -0.2% 0.0 0 -0 -0 0 -0 0 0 -0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	-1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	-12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Employed	Employed	-1,000 800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	-12,800 8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Unemployment rate(%)	Unemployed	800 0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	8,700 0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Unemployment rates(%)	Unemployment rate(%)	0.9 -500 -0.7% -500 -400	0.3 -9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Percent change NFWS from last moni	Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-500 -0.7% -500 -400	-9,800 -0.4% -8,800 -9,000
Percent change NFWS from last moni	Percent change NFWS from last moni	-0.7% -500 -400	-0.4% -8,800 -9,000
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Local December 2002 Change from one year ago December 2002 Civilian Labor Force** 280 500 350 250 2,200 1,060 830 590 6,000 3,800 63,8	Local 0 0 30 -40 -90 -70 10 30 -100 Change from one year ago December 2002 200 250 2,200 1,060 830 590 6,000 Employed 230 500 440 340 2,300 1,140 880 610 6,500		-1,800
Change from one year ago December 2002 Civilian Labor Force** 280 500 350 250 2,200 1,060 830 590 6,000 3,800 63,8 Employed 230 500 440 340 2,300 1,140 880 610 6,500 4,100 76,7 Unemployed 40 -10 -100 -100 -200 -80 -50 -20 -500 -300 -12,9 Unemployment rate(%) 0.4 -0.3 -0.9 -1.1 -0.4 -0.6 -0.7 -0.4 -0.6 -0.7 Total Nonfarm (NFWS) *** -50 170 100 50 1,100 570 420 160 2,500 1,400 -9 Percent change NFWS from last year -1.0% 2.1% 1.2% 0.6% 1.5% 3.2% 3.1% 2.0% 1.8% 2.0% 0. 0 1,100 600 300 100 2,300 1,200 0 0<	Change from one year ago December 2002 Civilian Labor Force** 280 500 350 250 2,200 1,060 830 590 6,000 Employed 230 500 440 340 2,300 1,140 880 610 6,500		-1,000
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Percent change NFWS from last year -1.0% 2.1% 1.2% 0.6% 1.5% 3.2% 3.1% 2.0% 1.8% 2.0% 0. Total Private -40 150 0 0 1,100 600 300 100 2,300 1,200 7,0 Goods Producing 20 -170 100 -100 -100 0 100 0 -200 -100 -20,0 Service Producing -60 340 0 200 1,100 600 300 100 2,600 1,500 19,0 Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs 10 10 30 0 0 -10 0 -10 0 0 -6,0 1,500 19,0 Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs 10 10 30 0 0 -10 0 -10 0 0 -6,4 4 4 -10 0 -10 0 0 -10 0 0 -10 -10 0 0 <td>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) *** -50 170 100 50 1,100 570 420 160 2,500</td> <td>1,400</td> <td>-900</td>	Total Nonfarm (NFWS) *** -50 170 100 50 1,100 570 420 160 2,500	1,400	-900
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Service Producing -60 340 0 200 1,100 600 300 100 2,600 1,500 19,0 Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs 10 10 30 0 0 -10 0 -10 0 0 -6,4 Manufacturing 0 -180 0 -100 -100 0 120 30 -200 -100 -13,6 Trade 0 270 0 0 100 290 120 100 900 800 8,2 Transportation & Utilities -30 -10 0 30 -100 250 0 10 200 20 4,2 Financial Activities 0 10 10 10 200 20 10 10 200 5,8 Education and Health Services -40 10 0 100 500 50 20 40 700 200 10,6 Leisure & Hospitality 20 50 </td <td>,</td> <td></td> <td>-20,000</td>	,		-20,000
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Trade 0 270 0 0 100 290 120 100 900 800 8,2 Transportation & Utilities -30 -10 0 30 -100 250 0 10 200 20 4,2 Financial Activities 0 10 10 10 200 20 10 10 200 5,8 Education and Health Services -40 10 0 100 500 50 20 40 700 200 10,6 Leisure & Hospitality 20 50 0 0 0 50 -20 200 200 8	Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs 10 10 30 0 0 -10 0 -10 0	0	-6,400
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Education and Health Services -40 10 0 100 500 50 20 40 700 200 10,6 Leisure & Hospitality 20 50 0 0 0 50 -20 200 200 8			4,200
Leisure & Hospitality 20 50 0 0 0 50 -20 200 200 8			5,800
			10,600
Sygn 40 0 400 0 500 20 40 00 400 400 27			800
	Svcs -10 0 -100 0 500 20 10 -60 400	-100	2,700
			-7,900
			-600
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		0	-2,500
Local -10 10 90 20 -90 -30 80 70 100 200 -4,7	Local -10 10 90 20 -90 -30 80 70 100		-4,700



^{**} Includes participants residing in area.

^{***} Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2002



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